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News Release

HPD Retires Two, Promotes One, and Creates New Bureau

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After two big retirements and one promotion, the Harrisonburg Police Department will experience some changes in the near future.

On February 28, Sarah Fairweather and Paul Rodeffer retired after serving HPD for many years. Mrs. Fairweather retired as the Administrative Program Support Specialist after working at HPD for 39 years.

Officer Paul Rodeffer was visible in this community as the Downtown Bike Officer. He started working as a patrol officer in 1981.

Richard Sites was promoted this month from a lieutenant, who oversaw the Patrol Division, to the rank of captain. Captain Sites has been with the Department since 1989, when he started as a patrol officer. He will now oversee a brand new area of HPD; the Professional Standards Bureau.

After the retirement of HPD's major in July 2010, the position of major was not filled and shifted to this captain's position.

Captain Sites now makes the third captain within HPD. Captain Dan Claytor supervises the Administrative Bureau and Captain Benny Gregory directs the Operations Bureau.

The Professional Standards Bureau was formed to concentrate on the continuous growth, professionalism, training, and future accreditation of the Department.

Captain Sites will now oversee:

- Accreditation
- Policy and professional standards
- Departmental training
- Internal affairs investigations
- Public information and crime analysis
- Property and evidence
- Crime prevention specialist
- Special projects
- Inspections.

“The newly established bureau will assist in taking the Harrisonburg Police Department to the next level of professionalism,” said Captain Richard Sites. “I am excited to be given the opportunity to launch this new bureau.”

In the coming months and even years, the Department will also be seeking accreditation through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission. Working to obtain accreditation is a benefit to the officers, the City, and the community.

Through accreditation, HPD aims to create more forums for the community and police to work together. This will better the community’s understanding of the agency and everyone’s role in prevention and the fight against crime.

The costs incurred to become an accredited agency are minimal and includes an application fee and accommodations for the assessment team at the time of the on-site inspection.

Going through this process will allow an internal evaluation of the Department to ensure all functions continue growing and providing top-notch services to the community. Law enforcement professionals, from outside agencies, will be able to give HPD recommendations on improvements that can be made to only better the Department’s performance.

“Captain Sites is an excellent leader and well-deserving of this promotion,” said Colonel D.G. Harper, HPD’s Chief of Police. “I’m looking forward to watching his knowledge and expertise unfold into this new bureau.”

The Harrisonburg Police Department hopes to become a fully-accredited agency by 2013.